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Sims is a very great admiral, that he is scientifically proficient in his field, that he knows ships and their maneuvers, guns and their operation, sailors and their behavior, navies and their control. He is paid to know these things. If we need him in his field we expect him to serve in the future, as in the past, with intelligence and gallantry. We are convinced, however, that he should cease his fulminations on matters of policy, particularly foreign policy; and we have confidence enough in the integrity of the gentleman to believe that when once he familiarizes himself with the life and teachings of George Washington he will not misrepresent that great American, even when under the influence of a gnawing temptation to enlarge his arm of our common service.

### AN IMPERIAL CONFERENCE

THE FIRST IMPERIAL CONFERENCE since the war was opened in London, Monday, June 20. Here surely was an important group. The Conference included Mr. Lloyd-George, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom; Mr. Arthur Meighen, Prime Minister of Canada; Mr. W. M. Hughes, Prime Minister of Australia; Mr. W. F. Massey, Prime Minister of New Zealand; General Smuts, Prime Minister of South Africa, and Mr. Montagu, the Maharaja of Cutch. The others present at the Conference were Mr. Chamberlain, Mr. Balfour, and Mr. Winston Churchill, of the United Kingdom; Sir Thomas Smartt, Minister of Agriculture; Colonel H. Mentz, Minister of Defense of South Africa, and Mr. Srinivasi-Sastri, of India. We have no doubt that the results of their conversations will be important not only to the future of the British Empire, but to the other nations of the world.

Utterances within this council, such as we have been able to gather, are of interest and, in the main, of encouragement. Mr. Lloyd-George seems to have been at his best. "Unless treaty faith is maintained," he said, "an era of disorganization, increasing misery, and smouldering war will continue and civilization may very easily be destroyed by a prolongation of that state of things." Calling attention to the nerve exhaustion and heart strain, the feverish restlessness and the disinclination to steady labor, he went on to say, "There is a widening and deepening conviction that the world must have peace, if it is ever to recover health." It is true that Mr. Lloyd-George believes in at least one kind of disarmament, namely, the disarmament of Germany. He also granted that there is no quarter of the world where he desires more greatly to maintain peace and fair play for all nations and to avoid a competition of armaments than in the Pacific and in the Far East.

And he said, further, "Our foreign policy can never range itself in any sense upon the differences of race and civilization between East and West. It would be fatal to the Empire." Going on, he added: "We desire to work with the great Republic [the United States] in all parts of the world. Like it, we want stability and peace, on the basis of liberty and justice. Like it, we desire to avoid the growth of armaments, whether in the Pacific or elsewhere, and we rejoice that American opinion should be showing so much earnestness in that direction at the present time." And then, true to his English tradition, it would seem that he proceeded to cancel all his remarks looking toward any disarmament by saying, "In the meantime we cannot forget that the very life of the United Kingdom, as also of Australia and New Zealand—indeed the whole Empire—has been built upon sea power, and that sea power is necessarily the basis of the whole Empire's existence. We have, therefore, to look to the measures which our security requires; we aim at nothing more; we cannot possibly be content with less." And since Japan is also relying upon sea power, and the United States withal, it would seem that the movement for a practical reduction of armaments is in for some trouble. When, however, this dynamic Welshman grants that while there was a time when Downing Street controlled the Empire, today the Empire is in charge of Downing Street, he perhaps unwittingly encouraged the workers for disarmament after all. There was another interesting passage in this address, of significance to us Americans who are prone to emphasize the significance of our federal organization as something of a model for the future organization of the world. He said, "The British Empire is a saving fact in a very distracted world. It is the most hopeful experiment in human organization which the world has yet seen. It is based not on force, but on good will and a common understanding. Liberty is its binding principle. Where that principle has not hitherto been applied it is gradually being introduced into the structure. It is our duty here to present the ideals of this great association of peoples in willing loyalty to one sovereign, to take counsel together with the progress and welfare of all, and to keep our strength, both moral and material, a united power for justice, liberty, and peace." It serves no purpose to find fault with Mr. George because of his superlative phraseology, just as it serves no purpose for us to insist that our own organization of forty-eight free, sovereign, and independent States on this hemisphere is the most perfect this or the most perfect that. The simple fact is that they are both excellent and most highly suggestive, these two ventures in international organization. The evolution of the British Empire is on the way. It is a great fact of current history, as it

has been a great accomplishment of past history. It will enter into the structure of the international organization that is yet to be. The same thing is true of these United States of America.

True, the British Empire of 1914 has passed from the stage. It is now increasingly and more accurately spoken of as the British Commonwealth. The six great divisions of the Empire are on a plane of equality little dreamed of at the beginning of the war. We are told that the British Government will welcome a Canadian colleague at Washington. Suggestions from the Dominions relative to matters of foreign relations are invited. It is recognized that these Dominions have now been accepted fully into the comity of nations. This was the fact in Paris. They signed the Treaty of Versailles; indeed, all the other treaties. To use Mr. George's words, "They have achieved full national status, and they now stand beside the United Kingdom as equal partners in the dignities and the responsibilities of the British Commonwealth."

But all the Dominions maintain their allegiance. Mr. Meighen pointed out that the Dominions are united by their history, by mutual trust, "and by a fundamental intention to preserve a common allegiance." We are familiar with the fact that General Smuts is a strong adherent to the principle of a united British Commonwealth. The representative from India indicated the ambition of that country to acquire full dominion status.

Thus, our general impression is that the Imperial Conference in London, itself an evidence of the value of conference, has ironed out many of the difficulties facing the British, added its bit to the better day, and given to the world a renewed faith in the possibilities of peaceable settlement. Its very method, as well as spirit, gives substance and solidity to Mr. Harding's words over the coffins of boys who had died in France, "It must not happen again."

## TOLSTOYAN NON-RESISTANCE IN THE LABORATORY

THERE IS AN INTERESTING, frail, little man, vegetarian and faster, in India, called Mahatma Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi. He is revered and followed, it is said, by a larger number than any human being has ever had in any country. Following an interview with Lord Reading, the present Viceroy of India, Mr. Gandhi has announced that so long as the men in India stand by the principle of non-violence and the spirit of sacrifice for the cause of justice to their country, no power on earth can check them from attaining their "swaraj," or independence, within the year. Of course, Mr. Gandhi has opponents, not only among the

English, but among the natives of India. Mr. Tagore, the well-known poet, has recently severely criticized him for his opposition to the teaching of any foreign language in the schools of India. There are extremists, such as Lala Lajput Rai, of Punjab, who has recently denounced anything looking toward a compromise between Gandhi and the Viceroy. Fanatics, especially from Afghan, are embarrassing Mr. Gandhi and the Non-Co-operative movement. But this most unusual combination of practical politician and visionary dreamer, bent upon establishing an India for India—politically, economically, educationally, and religiously—has presented Britain with not a few sleepless nights.

England has been working upon India for some two hundred fifty years, for it was in 1757 that Clive won his victory of Plassey. Today, as a result largely of Mr. Gandhi's propaganda, she is confronted with a threatening boycott of everything British in the way of manufactured goods; with the resignation of every native of India now in the government employ; with a new and insidious attack in terms of Tolstoyan non-resistance; with a man who preaches only to the souls of men that the militarism of the Western nations is blasphemy against God. This man has concerned himself with such practical matters as home industries. He has won the support of many Mohammedans in his crusade against everything British. He travels barefooted, third class, and teaches the principle of the oneness of humanity. He is opposed to all castes and to the use of titles, with the result that large numbers of young Hindus have returned their medals and titles. Crowds follow him and listen to him, kissing his garments as they may. The followers of Clive, Hastings, Bentinck, of the earlier period, and of Lytton, Ripon and Curzon, of the latter days, are face to face with large tasks in India.

THE TRIALS of war criminals in Leipsic seem to be satisfying nobody but the accused. Even in Germany public opinion commonly referred to as moderate is reported as regretful that the sentences have not been more severe. There is also a general agreement in Germany that the Junker and reactionary parties have been carrying on a violent propaganda throughout Germany in the interest of the defendants. The acquittal of the German officer, General Stenger, accused of instructing his men to take no prisoners, resulted in the immediate withdrawal of the French legal representatives at the Leipsic court. The French position is that their legal mission was both useless and ridiculous. It appears that France has repudiated the Leipsic trials. It would seem, therefore, that the whole question of the trying of